

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B 3651

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gray House

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2517 Huron Street (Mt. Winans - Hullsville)

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jeslester Gray and Wife

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

2517 Huron Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code 21230

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Records Room

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

District Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-3651

**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

B3651 2517 Huron St. Hullsville Gray c.1910

The Gray House is a gable, frame dwelling with a high pitched roof. It resembles an A frame home and has two wings telescoped and cantilevered from the central wing. The house is located in the historically black community of Mt. Winans. This section of Mt. Winans has been identified as Hullsville by the older black residents.

The house is located on a block which is bounded by Huron St. on the west, Hollins Ferry Road on the north, Puget St. to the east, and Harmon St. on the south. The lot is located within Hull's Addition in an urbanized area about seven miles south west of Baltimore's Inner Harbor area. The lots are organized in a typical grid pattern but having long, rectangular plat lines. Hullsville is a community which is bounded by Hollins Ferry Road on the north and east, and the B and O Railroad on the south and west.

The front elevation of the house exhibits asymmetrical fenestration of windows and a door. A gusset has been added to the bend in the L of the extended wing on the side of the houses. This house has been substantially remodeled and the unusual proportions reflect changes that were made to the interior to accommodate a larger upper storey.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-3651

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Not available

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

2517 Huron Street (parcel)  
 Hull's Addition  
 Mt. Winans area  
 Baltimore, Maryland

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

October 1982

ORGANIZATION

Center for Built Environment Studies

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Morgan State University

444-3225

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

## 8. Statement of Significance

It is not uncommon for groups of people who shared ethnic identities to form urban or rural settlements where the architecture, folklore, and other aspects of material culture were actively pursued and transmitted within the community. In spite of the peculiar aspects of the black American's trek from slavery to freedom, black people also responded to the struggle for existence by forming communities and settlements consciously. What is needed is an evaluation of what is known about sites that are significantly related to black history. This evaluation requires expanding upon the historic sites inventory which is currently available and providing documentation of spatial relationships, functional characteristics, structural requirements, and modifications. Ideally, the findings here would be most significant where we identify spaces that were occupied by slaves, free blacks, influential black leaders, professionals, working class and poor blacks within a relevant comparative framework.

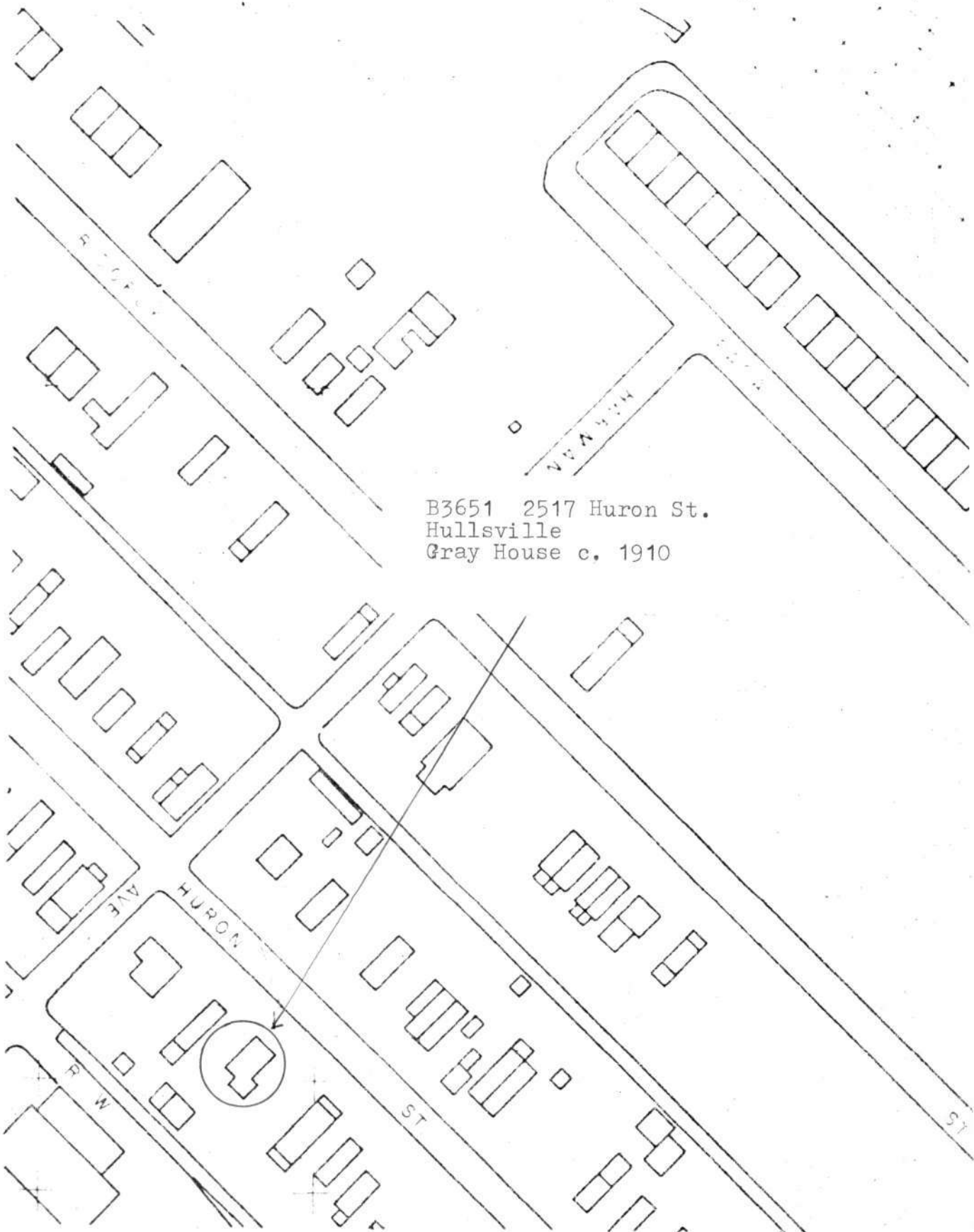
The black town was formally conceived as a community following Emancipation and dotted the American landscape from c.1870 through the 1930's. These were usually formal communities located along an urban access route. The urban enclave, on the other hand, is a black settlement which typically categorizes the early communities that are historically black in urbanized areas. It is probably the most pervasive form of community in cities and its remnants are extant throughout the United States. Usually, a patriarchal community was formed around a colored school of church, and houses were built by the families who purchased lots from the patriarch. As cities grew, these communities became annexed by the city and formed the basic black district in the older areas. The grid plan is the form determinant although a spatial analysis of the relationship between spaces and nodal axis points which qualify spatial hierarchies is desperately needed.

Hullsville, (Mt Winans) was settled in 1853 with the construction of the Sharp Street Memorial African Methodist Chapel. The community was established by 1878 where home building, roads and service institutions were defining the community. Most of the heads of households were independent artisans, semi-skilled laborers, and craftsmen. The conception of the community was defined by its racial homogeneity and the independent economic status of the men.

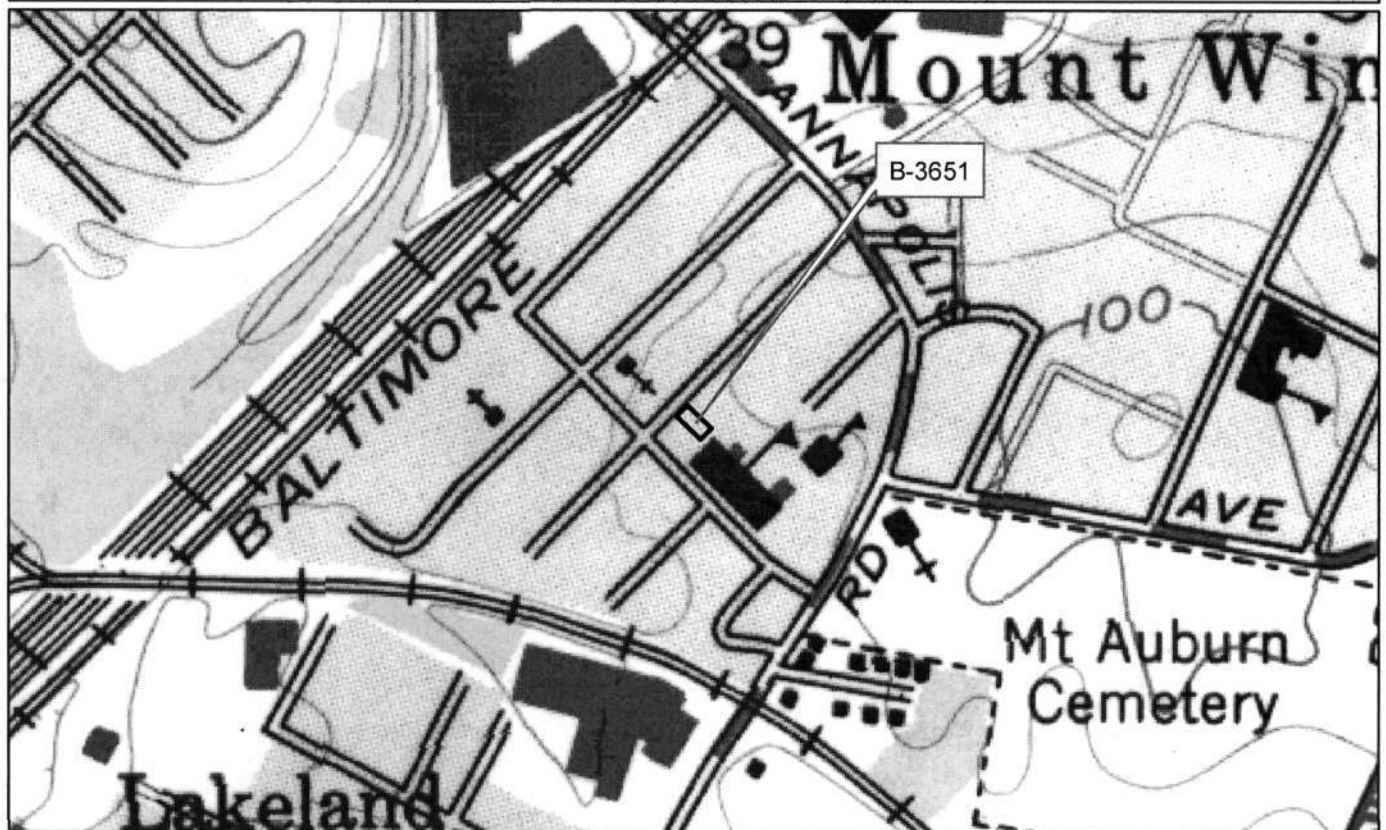
A modified grid plan was developed by the community although this system may have been a natural response to the street system. This community is defined by exceptionally wide streets, their axis being determined by natural contours of the land rather than a formal idealized plan. The form of the dominant house type in the early houses is vernacular, detached row houses probably reminiscent of the city image that the founding residents maintained.



B3651 2517 Huron St.  
Hullsville  
Gray House c. 1910



B-3651  
Gray House  
2517 Huron Street  
Block 7472 Lot 039  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad.







B3651  
Gray House  
General View  
Fern Eisner, phtogr. 6/82

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